Sreckovich, Budmir
Pearson, Drew
CIA 4 US (Refugee groups)
Org / America Serb Committee
Org / Serbian Cultural Club

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Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page

13

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Letters to

Denies CIA-Led U.N. Pickets

In his column of Aug. 19, Drew Pearson wrote that the demonstrations of 1960 against "Nikita Khrushchev, President Tito of Yugoslavia, Premier Gomulka of Poland and Premier Kadar of Hungary et al when they came to the United Nations, were directed and financed by Central Intelligence."

Furthermore, he stated that "the CIA was able to go out to Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo and Milwaukee to recruit ex-Ukrainians, ex-Poles, ex-Hungarians, and bring them to New York, where their expenses were paid to picket and heckle Khrushchev, Tito, Kadar and the others."

This statement is the most outrageous and the most untrue that has ever been written on this subject. If I had the necessary means I would bring Mr. Pearson before the court and ask him to prove his contention.

Thousands of Americans of East European descent, on their own free will, for almost two weeks appeared on the streets of New York to denounce these Communist tyrants who had mercilessly killed brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. I know this, because I was one of them.

As a member of the American Serb Committee and president of the Serbian Cultural Club "St. Sava," N. Y. Chapter, organizations which most actively participated in these demonstrations, I had been in close contact with other groups and have never heard of anybody who was "paid to picket and heckle."

On the contrary, I know many of the demonstrators who forfeited their daily wages by picketing and contributed from their own pockets for the printing of leaflets, the painting of boards and signs and the purchase of flags.

I challenge Mr. Pearson to prove the opposite and to substantiate his statement that by doing so we were directed and financed by CIA.

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